(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what will be the status and the role of ONGC Videsh Limited after the formation of the Joint Venture corporate?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) ONGC Videsh Limited continues to be the leading agency for taking up various E&P opportunities abroad.

Allotment of petrol pumps in Special Category

2008. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints against some rich and influential persons of general category for having got benami allotment of petrol pumps and LPG agencies actually earmarked for SC/ST;

(b) if so, the details of such complaints, State-wise, particularly from Punjab;

(c) the action taken against the persons who got such benami allotments in their names and the oil marketing companies which made these benami allotments, State-wise; and

(d) the measures taken to stop such benami allotments of petrol pumps/ LPG agencies initially allotted to SCs/STs?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) During the current financial year *i.e.*, 2004-2005, the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) have received complaints against/identified five cases of benami allotment/operation of retail outlet dealerships (petrol pumps), which are earmarked for the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes category. These cases relate to the States of Bihar (one case of IOC), Uttar Pradesh (one case of IOC), Tamil Nadu (one case of BPCL), Andhra Pradesh (one case of HPCL) and Karnataka (one case of HPCL). While in one case of Andhra Pradesh the allegation was found to be baseless after inquiry, in the remaining four cases the oil company concerned is conducting investigations.

Further action in these four cases will depend on the result of the investigation.

(d) As per the mechanism provided for in the process of selection of dealers/distributors by the OMCs, the chances of benami allotment of dealerships/distributorships are little.

At the time of interview of the applicants, the documents furnished by them along with their applications are verified with reference to the original copies of the documents. Thereafter, on receipt of the merit panel of selected candidates, the oil company concerned conducts the field investigation in respect of the selected candidate. During this investigation, the factual data given by the candidate in his application is again verified.

In addition, the oil company officers, while inspecting the retail outlets frequently, monitor whether the signatories to the dealership agreements are managing the dealerships personally. If any doubt arises, then bank documents, sales tax registration, income tax returns, retail selling licences and other relevant documents, etc. are checked to ensure that there is no benami operation. Whenever, any case of operation of retail outlet by persons not allotted the dealership is detected, the matter is investigated and if this is established, action is taken in line with the dealership/ distributorship agreement.

Temporary Allotment of Petrol Pumps

†2009. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the allocation of petrol pumps made from the 1st April, 2003 to the 30th September, 2004 under selection procedure, the guiding principles for constitution of Board have been fully followed and whether the allocations have also been made for operating petrol pumps temporarily before allocation through selection procedure; and

(b) if so, the numbers thereof and the details of such persons alongwith their addresses?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Within the framework of broad parameters

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.